Violaltion of Environment Discipline by Power Plant/Industrial Undertakings

970. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of Government owned power plants/industrial undertakings have been violating the environment discipline set out for adherence by these sectors and have been spreading pollution of environment in the country;

(b) whether Government have taken any penal action against all those who have been found to have violated the environmental rules and laws;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what further effective action is being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Action has been taken by the respective State Pollution Control Boards against all those industries violating the prescribed standards.

(d) A time-bound Action Plan for control of pollution has been prepared in consultation with the State Governments under which polluting units are required to meet the standards by Deecmber 31, 1991.

India's absention in U.N. Security Council

971. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India absented from voting in the U.N. Security Council, when it decided to hold a closed door debate to discuss the Gulf War; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) India abstained on a vote in the Security Council on a proposal to hold private meetings on the Gulf crisis.

(b) We preferred an open meeting of the Security Council but were not opposed to holding private meetings if that was the wish of the majority. Hence our abstention.

Report of the Dehra Dun based Forest Survey of India

972. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Report of the Dehra Dun based Forest Survey of India (FSI) according to which India's environmental stability is at stake as the country's forest cover is diminishing at an alarming rate;

(b) whether the situation is worse in some of the northern States like Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab where the forest cover is less than 10 per cent of the area;

(c) whether the average growing stock of wood compares poorly with the world standards per hectare; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any long-term or short-term plans are being prepared to check this alarming forest cover depletion; and

(e) the broad features thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

According to the State of Forest Report 1989 brought out by the Forest Survey of India, the actual forest

cover in the country has decreased from 64.2 million ha. to 64.01 million ha. between the period 1981—83 and 1985—87.

(c) The estimated growing stock of wood in the country is 4196 million cu. m. The growing stock per hectare of the actual forest cover works out at about 65 cu. m. which compares poorly with the world average of 110 cu.m. per hectare.

(d) and (e) The National Forest Policy, 1988 stipulated that a minimum of one third of the total geographical area should be under forest or tree cover and to achieve this national goal a massive afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded and degraded lands are under implementation involving village communities and voluntary organisations as well.

Government has also contemplated a 10 years National Forestry Action Plan for conservation and development of forest resources and this plan is under preparation for each State/Union Territory with chief objective of bringing about socio-economic development and environmental stability.

Project Report on Polavanam Multipurpose Project

973. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted up-dated project report on Polavanam Multi-purpose Project in 1990;

(b) whether Government have examined the Project Report;

(c) whether there is any Inter-State water dispute relating to this Project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (d) After examination, the Report submitted in July, 1990 was seen, among others, to be wanting in basic issues like establishing water availability for the project and concurrence of basin States allowing submergence in their territories. The Report was, therefore, returned to the State Government for compliance and modification.

Reports of various bodies to reduce road accidents

974. SHRI CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the reports submitted by various bodies to Government on reducing road accidents during the last two years;

(b) the details of recommendations made in those reports and the action taken thereon so far;

(c) what is the present operational efficiency of various State Transport Undertakings including DTC; and

(d) the number of trips missed on various DTC routes during the last two years, year-wise and route-wise so far and what steps have been taken/are being taken to revamp the DTC and to improve its managerial/maintenance efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) The Central Government have not appointed any Committee or body during the last two years to go into the question of reducing road accidents. A statement indicating the main recommendations of the National Road Safety Council and the action taken thereon is annexed.